

What is claimed is:

1. A relay apparatus comprising:
2 external connection interface means to which a
3 plurality of communication means are connected and which
4 individually interfaces with the communication means;
5 and
6 common control means which is commonly
7 provided for the plurality of communication means and
8 controls to perform communication by using one of the
9 plurality of communication means connected to said
10 external connection interface means in accordance with
11 operation by a user.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
2 said common control means comprises
3 call control means for acquiring, from a
4 communication terminal connected to said external
5 connection interface means, unique communication
6 information including communication partner information
7 and log information used for communication through the
8 communication terminal,
9 a database storing communication information,
10 and
11 database management means for classifying
12 communication information according to communication
13 partners and collectively managing the information.

3. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein
2 said common control means comprises
3 window display means for displaying various
4 kinds of information about communication, and
5 search means for retrieving communication
6 information about a communication partner from said
7 database, and
8 said call control means displays the retrieval
9 result obtained by said search means on said window
10 display means.

4. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein
2 said database stores termination propriety
3 condition information set for each communication partner,
4 and
5 said common control means further comprises
6 response determination means for, if during speech
7 communication through one of the plurality of
8 communication means, an incoming call is received
9 through another communication means, determining the
10 propriety of responding to the incoming call on the
11 basis of termination propriety condition information
12 about a communication partner, from said database, with
13 which the speech communication is being performed.

5. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

2 said external connection interface means comprises at
3 least one of terminal interface means for interfacing
4 with a terminal and line interface means for a line.

6. An apparatus according to claim 5, further
2 comprising relay means for relaying/connecting said
3 terminal interface means and said line interface means
4 to said control means.

7. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the
2 communication means comprises at least one of a portable
3 terminal and a communication line, and performs various
4 kinds of communication.

8. An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the
2 communication means performs at least one of speech
3 communication, electronic mail communication, and image
4 communication.